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## India

**Post:** New Delhi

### Monsoon Report - 8

**Report Categories:**

Agricultural Situation

Climate Change/Global Warming/Food Security

Grain and Feed

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**Report Highlights:**

The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) pegs cumulative levels of rainfall from June through September 23 at 761mm, 11 percent below normal. *Kharif* (fall harvested) planted area decreased marginally to 101 million hectares. India's food-grain production for crop season 2014/15 (June-July) is currently estimated at 120.3 million metric tons (MMT), seven percent below the previous season. Abundant water levels in major reservoirs will assist farmers with winter crop planting.

**General Information:**

**Monsoon Progress and Withdrawal**

According to IMD, cumulative monsoonal rainfall in India from June through September 23 was 11 percent below the long-period average (LPA) of 853.3 mm (Figure 1). Precipitation was reported normal to above-normal in 26 meteorological sub-divisions. 10 sub-divisions (comprising eastern Madhya Pradesh, Marathwada, Uttar Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura, Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi) received deficit levels of rains. Usually, the monsoon withdraws from central and eastern India during mid-to-late October.

***Kharif* Planting Progress**

According to the Ministry of Agriculture’s latest update, *kharif* (fall harvested) crops were planted on 100.7 million hectares. This figure is roughly 96 percent of the *kharif* average for planted area, and a modest decline from the 103.2 million hectares planted last year (Table 1). With the exception of deficit precipitation in Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, eastern Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, and Marathwada (Figure 1), rainfall was fairly well-distributed in the remaining parts of India, resulting in generally favorable cropping conditions for the 2014 *kharif* season. September flash flooding in Jammu and Kashmir damaged paddy, horticultural, and corn crops in that region, although the value of losses has not been determined.

**First Advance Estimate of *Kharif* Crop Production**

The Government of India’s [first advance estimate](#) for the 2014/15 *kharif* season forecast India’s food-grain production at 120.27 MMT. Although this estimate is seven percent below last year, this figure would remain in excess of the most recent five-year average of 112.7 MMT. Out-year oilseed, cotton, and sugarcane production is also forecast lower than current-year levels. \_

**Water Storage**

Water levels in major reservoirs as of September 18, 2014, were 123.11 billion cubic meters (bcm). While this level marks a decline from 130.46 bcm during the same period last year, it remains relatively strong when compared to the most recent ten-year average of 114.08 bcm. India’s strong reservoir levels will assist *rabi* (winter) crop planting, to include wheat, winter rice, rapeseed, mustard, and pulses. Additionally, farmers in many areas may be able to plant *rabi* crops early due to favorable soil moisture levels.

**Table 1. India: *Kharif* Planting Progress 2014**

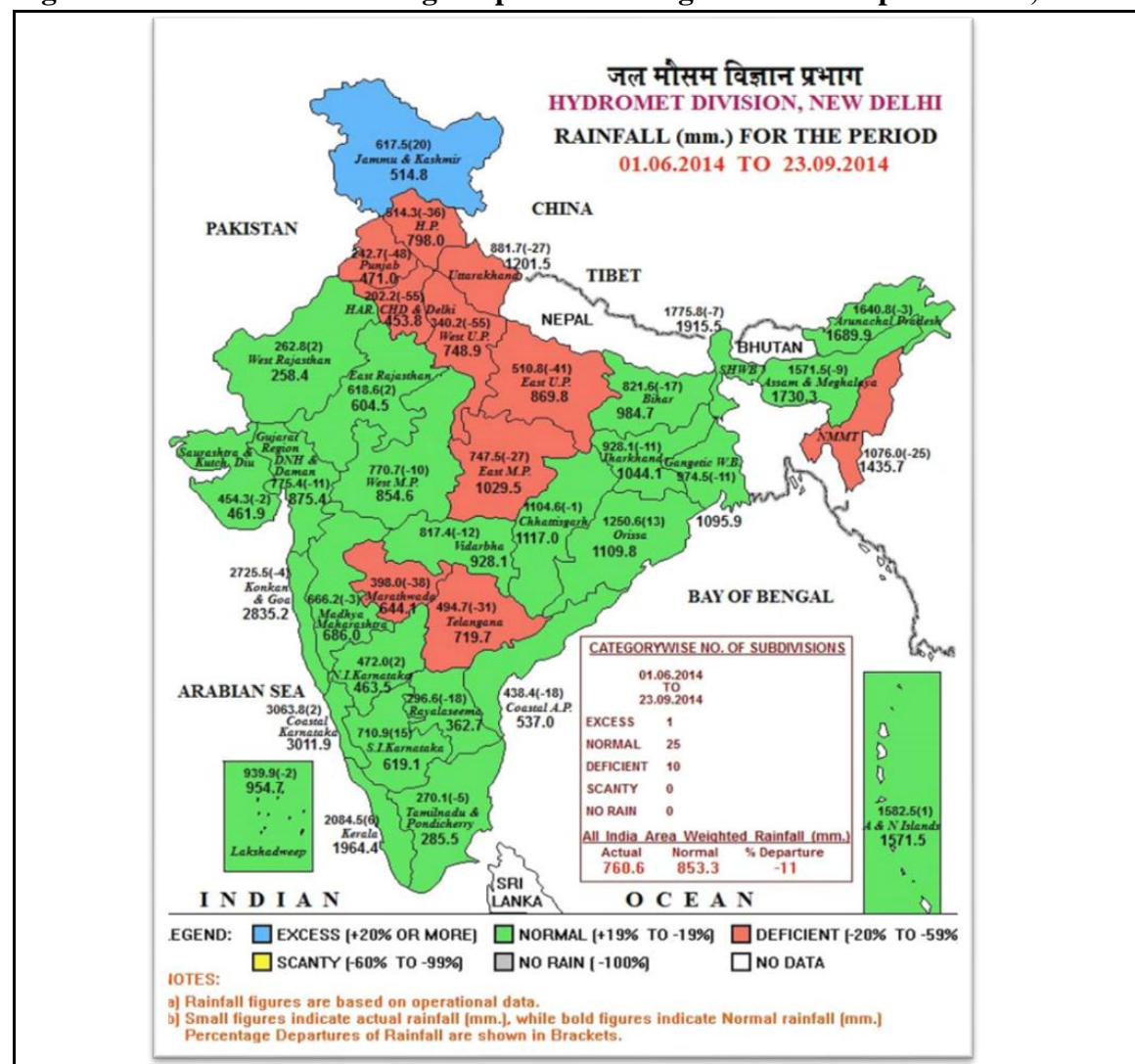
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Crop	Area as of September 19, 2014	Area as of September 19, 2013	Normal area* for whole <i>kharif</i> season
Rice	37.36	37.31	39.10
Coarse Grains	18.20	19.52	20.75
Pulses	10.00	10.77	10.77
Oilseeds	17.68	19.24	18.28
Sugarcane	04.87	05.03	04.70
Cotton	12.57	11.36	10.96
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.68</b>	<b>103.23</b>	<b>104.56</b>

Source: [Weather Watch Report](#), Ministry of Agriculture, GOI.

.\*: Normal area is average of last five years

**Figure 1. India: Rainfall during the period starting June 01 to September 23, 2014**



Source: Indian Meteorological Department, GOI